

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 05595 031105Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6566
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 5595

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GR, BU
SUBJECT: KARAMANLIS TO VISIT BULGARIA

1. IN AN EFFORT TO REINVIGORATE SOMEWHAT HIS INITIATIVE
FOR IMPROVING INTER-BALKAN COOPERATION, PRIME MINISTER
KARAMANLIS WILL VISIT BULGARIA JULY 6-7. IT WILL BE HIS
SECOND SUCH TRIP SINCE HIS RETURN TO POWER IN 1974.
BULGARIAN PRESIDENT ZHIVKOV CAME TO GREECE IN 1976.

2. THIS TIME THE TWO LEADERS WILL MEET IN THE SUMMER
SPA OF VARNA. A STAFF MEMBER OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S
OFFICE WHO WILL BE ACCOMPANYING HIM TOLD US THAT WHILE
FULLY AWARE THAT BULGARIA ACTS AS SURROGATE FOR THE USSR
MORE THAN ANY OTHER STATE IN THE BALKAN REGION, KARAMANLIS
NEVERTHELESS WILL ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE ZHIVKOV TO ZDOPT
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 05595 031105Z

A MORE FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE ON INTER-BALKAN COOPERATION.
THERE IS LITTLE EXPECTATION THAT THE BULGARIANS WOULD
AGREE TO PARTICIPATE SOON IN A SECOND INTER-BALKAN
CONFERENCE. BUT WITH GREEK-YUGOSLAV TIES GROWING CLOSER,
KARAMANLIS IS EXPECTED TO ARGUE FOR MODERATION IN
BULGARIA'S DEALINGS WITH YUGOSLAVIA ON THEIR
BILATERAL ISSUES. NOR IS KARAMANLIS UNMINDFUL OF THE

NEED TO BALANCE OFF THE RECENT ECEVIT VISIT TO SOFIA.
KARAMANLIS AND ZHIVKOV ARE SAID TO ENJOY A GOOD PERSONAL
RAPPORT, AND THE FORMER HOPES TO EXPLOIT THIS RELATION-
SHIP IN HIS TALKS WITH THE BULGARIAN LEADER.

3. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO GREEK MFA OFFICIALS CONCERNED
WITH BALKAN AFFAIRS, THE MAIN DEISCUSSIONS WILL CENTER
ON BILATERAL ECONOMIC AND TRADE ISSUES. GREECE HAD AN
OVERALL DEFICIT OF SOME 19 MILLION DOLLARS LAST YEAR IN
THEIR ECONOMIC RELATIONS. TRANSIT RIGHTS THROUGH
BULGARIA FOR GREEK VEHICLES AND THE USE OF THESSALONIKI
BY BULGARIA AS A FREE PORT ARE OTHER TOPICS REPORTEDLY
SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION.

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Message Attributes

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